REDEFINING expectations

CURIOUS LIVE in Belfast

1 DAY CONFERENCE HOSTED BY

The CURIOUS PIANO TEACHERS
REDEFINING
expectations

1 DAY CONFERENCE
with a lasting impact

Member Rates
Early Bird rate £87
Normal rate £117

Non-Member Rates
Early Bird rate £137
Normal rate £167

Tuesday 20 February 2018
The MAC, 10 Exchange Street West, Belfast

BUY NOW
We’re delighted to announce that The Curious Piano Teachers are going LIVE in the UK & Ireland in February. What’s even more thrilling is that this is going to be a truly international tour.

hello!

Dr Julie Knerr & Katherine Fisher, USA, Authors & Creators of Piano Safari
Dr Christopher Fisher, USA, Professor of Piano at Ohio University & Author of Teaching Piano in Groups
Samantha Coates, Australia, Author & Creator of the BlitzBooks series

Plus, as you’d expect, there is a CURIOUS twist!

This is not just a 1-day conference. We want this day to have lasting impact for you. For a conference to act as a catalyst, for us to change our teaching habits and ways, professional development has to have an ongoing element. The name of this conference ‘Redefining Expectations’ is a deliberate one - because we want to help you redefine your own expectations of yourself as a piano teacher.

There will be a Facebook group where you will have the opportunity to get to know the presenters and fellow piano teachers who have booked to attend this conference. This will act as a forum, both before and after the conference, to help you get the clarity you need to move forwards. There will also be a pre-conference webinar and pre-conference reading.

If you’re a passionate piano teacher, and can nod your head to the 6 statements opposite, then this is a conference date to get into your new 2018 diary!

We can’t wait to meet you - for real!

love x

SALLY CATHCART PhD
Director & Co-Founder

SHARON MARK-TEGGART MA
Director & Co-Founder

You seek acknowledgement as a real professional
You aim to impart your own deep love & joy for music to your students
You seek to teach with imagination, artistic sensitivity & technical certainty at all times
You already teach a balanced & structured curriculum with honesty & integrity
You take care & pride in your work
You’re ready to invest in your own ongoing professional development in order to keep it up to date & relevant
8.30AM: REGISTRATION
Sign in and settle down for the day

9.15AM: A MUSICAL SHOWER - 1
The day gets off to an energetic start with a collaborative musical activity

9.30AM-10.30AM: REDEFINING PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS
with Dr Christopher Fisher
If you’re worried by declining pupil numbers, maybe it’s time to look again at the role of the parents? This workshop will explore robust strategies that piano teachers can employ to engage, educate and encourage the parents of their students.

COFFEE

11AM -12PM: REDEFINING LEARNING IN THE FIRST YEAR
with Dr Julie Knerr and Katherine Fisher
The Transformative Triad - Rote, Technique, Improvisation.
Are you a teacher who hopes to inspire motivation and creativity in your piano students while simultaneously laying a strong technical foundation? This workshop will investigate how rote teaching is used in the early stages of piano study to develop these vital aspects of musicianship.

12PM - 1PM: REDEFINING ROUTES TO READING
with Samantha Coates
Learning to read music is no different from learning to read any language. There are no tricks or shortcuts involved – it’s simply a matter of learning to recognise patterns. This session shows how anyone can learn to read music easily, and will also prove that ‘shortcuts’ such as mnemonics do not help.

1PM - 2.15PM: LUNCH

2.15PM: A MUSICAL SHOWER - 2
Sally gets messy with one of her favourite piano pieces.

2.30PM-3.30PM: REDEFINING OUR TEACHING
with Sharon Mark-Teggart
Do you ever get frustrated when, despite lots of work in the lesson, your pupil comes back the next week and everything is just the same? Sounds like your Advice Monster is getting the better of you! During this workshop you will learn some strategies to help you tame your Advice Monster and how giving feedback on what you hear is more likely to encourage progress.

TEA

4PM - 4.45PM: REDEFINING EXPECTATIONS - THE WAY AHEAD
Round table discussion chaired by Dr. Sally Cathcart
After a day of thought-provoking presentations Sally will be bringing together the different threads so that delegates have a clear sense of how they can ‘Redefine Expectations’. This will be a round table discussion with presenters and delegates all able to participate.
Member Rates
Early Bird rate £87
Normal rate £117

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Early Bird rate £137
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BUY NOW
Click here now to book!
MEET CHRISTOPHER

Dr. Christopher Fisher is Professor of Piano at Ohio University School of Music in Athens, Ohio where he chairs the Keyboard Division and directs the graduate piano performance and pedagogy programs. Recognised for his teaching, Dr. Fisher was the 2010 recipient of the Ohio Music Teachers Association Collegiate Teacher of the Year and the Ohio University School of Music Distinguished Teaching Award.

Dr. Fisher is the author of Teaching Piano in Groups (Oxford University Press, 2010) and co-author of the revised and expanded edition of Piano Duet Repertoire (Indiana University Press, 2016). He has published in leading keyboard journals and is a contributing composer for the innovative piano method, Piano Safari (www.pianosafari.com), which is used by piano teachers and students around the globe. His educational compositions are published by Alfred Music and Piano Safari.

In demand as a workshop clinician, Dr. Fisher has presented lectures internationally, including the national conferences of the Music Teachers National Association, National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, the National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum, and the Australasian Piano Pedagogy Conference.

As a performing artist, he is a member of the Fisher Piano Duo and has recorded for the MSR Classics label.

What book are you reading right now?
“Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverence” by Angela Duckworth

Something most people don’t know about you
I was an on-air reporter for a radio station. Also, I was raised on a farm and enjoyed showing cattle at the Country Fair.

What was the name of your first piano teacher?
Sara Eschenbach. She was a wonderful teacher who made amazing chocolate chip cookies!
MEET JULIE

Dr. Julie Knerr teaches piano at her home studio in Windsor, Connecticut. Julie taught applied piano, piano pedagogy, and group piano as a faculty member at the University of Missouri, Oklahoma City University, Ohio University, and the Hartt School Community Division.

Julie holds a PhD in Music Education with an emphasis in Piano Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma, where her dissertation on elementary level piano technique was nominated for the Best PhD Dissertation Award in 2006. Additional degrees include MM degrees in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a BM in Piano Performance from the University of Puget Sound. Her mentors in piano pedagogy include Jane Magrath, Barbara Fast, Christos Tsitsaros, and Reid Alexander.

As an accomplished collaborative pianist, Julie enjoys performing with both instrumentalists and singers. Her former piano teachers include Duane Hulbert, James Barbagallo, William Heiles, Timothy Ehlen, and Edward Gates.

Julie is a frequent adjudicator at festivals and competitions throughout the United States. Her current research interests include elementary level piano technique, lesser known pre-college piano repertoire, and group piano pedagogy.

DR JULIE KNERR

Piano Safari
Author & Co-Creator

REDEFINING
Learning in the First Year

Co-presented with Katherine Fisher

The Transformative Triad: Rote, Technique, and Improvisation

Are you a teacher who hopes to inspire motivation and creativity in your piano students while simultaneously laying a strong technical foundation?

This workshop will investigate how rote teaching is used in the early stages of piano study to develop these vital aspects of musicianship. Specifically, the clinicians will speak in detail about the Piano Safari technical approach, the rote pieces used in conjunction with these technical exercises, and how they in turn foster the freedom to improvise and compose for the young pianist.

What book are you reading right now?

“The Pilgrims Progress” by John Bunyan

Worst school memory

Being chased around by a boy with a fetal pig from the biology dissecting cabinet. To this day, I can’t even stand the sight of a dead squirrel or bird.

Favourite place in the whole wide world!

Connecticut at the beach. But then I haven’t visited the UK yet!
MEET KATHERINE

Katherine Fisher is on the faculty of the Athens Community Music School at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Her responsibilities include teaching private piano lessons as well as coordinating the Piano Safari Program (group lessons) for children who are beginners at the instrument.

Katherine Fisher and Dr. Julie Knerr developed the Piano Safari® Method during their time in school together at the University of Oklahoma. While graduate students, they realized they had a mutual dream of writing a piano method that would incorporate the best elements of the various techniques they had been using in their teaching.

Katherine is a member of the Fisher Piano Duo with husband, Dr. Christopher Fisher. The duo has performed throughout the United States. They are co-authors of the revised and expanded edition of Piano Duet Repertoire (Indiana University Press, 2016).

A native of Ohio, Katherine received her degrees from the University of Oklahoma (MM in Piano Performance and Pedagogy) and the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music (BM in Piano Performance). Her former teachers include Jeongwon Ham, Jane Magrath, Barbara Fast, Karin R. Edwards, and Nancy Bachus.

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What book are you reading right now?
“Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can’t stop Talking” by Susan Cain

Where did you meet your Husband?
Chris and I met in Graduate School at the University of Oklahoma

Something most people don’t know about you
My first job was at the Sea World in Cleveland, Oh. I was a pearl diver! My job entailed narrating a show and also diving for oysters at the bottom of a pool.

The Transformative Triad: Rote, Technique, and Improvisation
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REDEFINING Learning in the First Year
Co-presented with Dr. Julia Knerr

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MEET SAMANTHA

Samantha Coates is a Sydney based pianist with three decades of experience in both private and group tuition. She is also the author of BlitzBooks, the music education series that brought fun and laughter to the areas of music theory and sight reading in Australia and the UK.

In addition to teaching and writing books, Samantha has had extensive experience as a solo performer, accompanist and lecturer, and is known for her entertaining presentation style.

She is in demand as a speaker on a wide range of pedagogical topics, appearing regularly at conferences in the UK and America as well as Australia.

Learning to read music is no different from learning to read any language. There are no tricks or short cuts involved - it’s simply a matter of learning to recognise patterns. This session shows how anyone can learn to read music easily, and will also prove that ‘short cuts’ such as mnemonics do not help.

As well as seeing practical demonstrations of breaking down the elements of reading music, delegates will participate in a fun game that transports them back to the days when they could not read music.

The entertaining session proves beyond a doubt that the use of mnemonics slows down the process of reading music, and demonstrates how sight reading fluency can be achieved easily and effectively with students of any age and ability.

What do you have for breakfast?
Toasted banana bread with ricotta. Every day.

Something most people don’t know about you
My parents owned a toy shop so growing up, I got to try out all the latest electronic games like Atari and Game Boy. I’m still addicted to Tetris to this day!

Favourite movie
Toy Story 1, 2 and 3!
MEET SHARON

Sharon is the Co-Founder of The Curious Piano Teachers, an online company that helps piano teachers to question everything. (Because asking the right questions and staying curious helps piano teachers move from being Good Teachers to being Great Teachers). Sharon says: “Being curious has taken me to places I never thought I’d reach. As a piano teacher, with incredibly humble beginnings, I’d never have moved on without my sense of curiosity and my courage to change.”

In 2007 Sharon achieved a Masters of Music Education with distinction. She has 20 years of piano teaching experience and since 2012 has delivered Associate and Licentiate teaching diploma courses to groups of piano teachers - with almost 100 piano teachers successfully gaining accredited piano teaching diplomas.

Sharon has been described as being a visionary entrepreneur within the world of music education. After founding evoco in 2012 (Northern Ireland’s Music Education Organisation, specialising in piano teacher training) she founded The Curious Piano Teachers in 2015 with Dr Sally Cathcart. Sharon lives close to the beautiful Mourne Mountains in County Down, Northern Ireland, with her husband Philip and baby son Reuel.

Do you ever get frustrated when, despite lots of work in the lesson, your pupil comes back the next week and everything is just the same? Sounds like your Advice Monster is getting the better of you! During this workshop you will learn some strategies to help you tame your Advice Monster and how giving feedback on what you hear is more likely to encourage progress.

How often do you fall into the advice-giver, answer it, solve it, fix it mode? Maybe, as a piano teacher, you feel it’s your job to give advice?

Yet we need to slow down the rush to give advice. That’s because the Advice Monster gobbles up our pupils’ opportunities for real, deep learning. In order to tame the Advice Monster, we can offer feedback and ask great questions instead.

This presentation will enable you to:
1. Spot when you’re being hijacked by the Advice Monster
2. Identify the difference between giving advice and giving feedback
3. Learn about the features of imposter, skinny and fat questions and their effectiveness in piano lessons
4. Explore a set of lesson criteria to be able to identify how wild or tame your Advice Monster actually is!

You’ll also be able to watch a lesson snapshot and apply the lesson criteria.
**MEET SALLY**

Sally is the Co-Founder of The Curious Piano Teachers, an online resource that provides an innovative and inspiring space for piano teachers across the world to meet, share, reflect and grow.

Her innate curiosity has taken her to many corners of the world to explore different approaches to music education. After her travels as a 2005 Winston Churchill Fellow, Sally founded the Oxford Piano Group ([www.theoxfordpianogroup.org.uk](http://www.theoxfordpianogroup.org.uk)) as a vibrant, collaborative place for pianists and teachers to meet and share experiences.

She was awarded a PhD from the Institute of Education, UCL in 2013. Her topic was the first comprehensive study of UK piano teachers, exploring common practices, expertise, values, attitudes and motivation to teaching. She has many years of teaching experience both as a piano teacher and as a classroom music teacher. Sally is a Principal Tutor on the Piano Teachers’ Course and is a consultant for ABRSM and The Voices Foundation.

**DR. SALLY CATHCART**
The Curious Piano Teachers
Director & Co-Founder

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**REDEFINING**

**Expectations - The Way Ahead**

After a day of thought-provoking presentations Sally will be bringing together the different threads so that delegates have a clear sense of how they can ‘Redefine Expectations’.

This will be a round table discussion with presenters and delegates all able to participate.

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**Music Showers**

To keep everyone connected with the music Sally’s going to be leading a couple of ‘Musical Showers’. You’ll be able to dive right in and surface re-energised!

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**Favourite Movie**
“A Room with a View” with Helena Bonham Carter

**Where did you meet your Husband?**
Through his brother who conducted an orchestra I used to play in

**Favourite place in the whole wide world!**
Blackwells bookshop in Oxford
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does the conference package consist of?
Like all Curious offerings it will be bright, beautifully packaged and full of lots of goodies. Included in the cost is:

• Access to an exclusive Redefining Expectations Facebook group for 10 weeks
• Pre-conference reading material
• All presentations during the conference day
• Conference lunch, teas and coffees
• An extra-special handbook for you to personalise
• A post conference webinar for all attendees

Read on to find out more about our exclusive Facebook group and cake provision.

Why do you claim this is a conference like no other? What makes it different?
Imagine the safest and most supportive Facebook group come to life - where we can eat REAL cake TOGETHER.

What’s more we are going to start to get acquainted beforehand and continue the conversation afterwards. We want the day to have lasting impact. Sally’s research shows that for a conference to act as a catalyst, for us to change our teaching habits and ways, professional development has to have an ongoing element. The name Redefining Expectations is a deliberate one - we want to help you redefine your own expectations of yourself as a piano teacher. There will be ongoing support for this after the day has ended.

The Redefining Expectations Facebook group will be open for all ticket holders from January 8th onwards and it will be used as a forum for discussions about the topics. You will have the opportunity to get to know the presenters and ask questions before the event day. Furthermore, you’ll be able to chat to other teachers who are going to be there.

Finally, after the event you’ll be invited to a Redefining Expectations webinar where progress and impact will be discussed. The Facebook group will be open until Monday, March 19th at which point it will be archived.

Who is this suitable for?
This is suitable for teachers who already have some teaching experience. You will already be familiar with Piano Safari for example but want to have a better understanding of its unique approach. You will already be questioning your own teaching and how to improve it and become a little more curious.

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This is for teachers:

- Who are seeking acknowledgment as real professionals
- Who aim to impart their own deep love and joy for music to their pupils
- Who are seeking to teach with imagination, artistic sensitivity and technical certainty at all levels
- Who already teach a balanced and structured curriculum with honesty and integrity
- Who take care and pride in their work
- Who are ready to invest in their own ongoing professional development in order to keep it up to date and relevant

Do I have to be a paid-up member of The Community to come?

Anyone can come to the conference, whether you are a member or not. There are two signup rates available.

Can I join The Community before signing up?

The next enrolment window, when you can become a member of The Community, is April 2018.

However, if you are not currently a member of The Community you will have the opportunity to become a member on the day of the conference - with £50 off the cost of membership. In other words, we let you save what members have been able to save on the cost of a conference ticket.

What are the advantages of signing up for the Early Bird discount?

Well, the early bird always catches the worm! As well as getting your place booked at a very reduced rate you will also be able to attend a very special, pre-conference webinar, exclusive to Early Birds, where you will get to meet all the presenters and hear them talk a bit about their presentations.

When is the Early Discount available until?

We want to give you lots of opportunity to hop in at the lowest possible price so the Early Bird is available until 6pm on January 13th.

What will the price be after the Early Bird discount ends?

£117 (members)
£167 (non-members)

Is there accommodation available?

There are numerous hotels in walking distance including one directly opposite.

Budget Option: Ramada Encore
You’re about 30 steps away from The MAC (from £70 per night)

Luxury Option: The Merchant
Just ‘around the corner’ from The MAC (from £160 per night)

Quirky Option: Titanic Hotel Belfast
About a mile away from The MAC, this is a brand new, boutique hotel which used to be the legendary Harland & Wolff headquarters where the Titanic was designed (from £160 per night)

Are refreshments and lunch included in the conference cost?

Yes, including afternoon tea and cake - of course!

Will Ed the Curious Elephant be there?

Ed is going to be at the Oxford day and one of his Irish cousins will be joining everyone in Belfast.

If I can’t be there in person will you be streaming the conference live or filming the event?

We’d love to be able to do this! But this is our first live event and we decided to heed our own advice of eating the elephant one bite at a time.

What are my transport/parking options for getting to the event?

Getting to the MAC is easy, we’re located right in the heart of Belfast’s Cathedral Quarter.

The address is 10 Exchange St West, Belfast. BT1 2NJ.

The MAC is less than 5 miles away from Belfast City Airport.

If you are coming by car you can park securely at Saint Anne’s Square multi-storey car park, right beside the MAC on Edward Street. It’s open 24 hours.

Click here to get directions to The MAC.
BUY NOW

Hurry! Places are limited...